The funds sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism are utilized by the State Government for the implementation of the projects and monitored by the Ministry of Tourism from time to time through the Project Monitoring System/Site visits.

Potential of tourism in country

225. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though India has a great potential for tourism, many tourist places in India still remain inaccessible;

(b) whether tourism department has made any survey of the tourism potential of India that tourism may attract million tourists and could create more employment; and

(c) whether Government has any prospective action plan to develop the infrastructure of tourism in important tourist places in different States including Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) Although the tourism sector in India has grown considerably in the recent years, it is felt that with India's vast bounties of nature, its great treasures of art, architecture and philosophical thought, its rich cultural heritage, its varied rural countryside and wildlife, and age-old practices of Yoga, Siddha, etc. spread across different States/UTs, there is immense tourism potential to tap, which can lead to further growth in tourism.

Development of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, to facilitate development of tourism in a systematic and holistic manner, the Ministry of Tourism had commissioned 20-Year Perspective Plans for States/ Union Territories, including Orissa, at the beginning of the Tenth Five Year Plan. These perspective plans, which give action plans for tourism development in the short term and long term, were sent to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to guide them in initiating action for development and promotion of tourism.

Water sharing

†226. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 34 per cent of the available water services in India, has its origin outside the country;

(b) if so, the names of the water sources and the names of the countries in which they are situated;

(c) whether Government has so far entered into any long term agreement for water sharing with the Governments of these countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The main course or the tributaries of rivers Ganga-Brahmaputra-

Meghna (GBM) and Indus originate from neighbouring countries. The names of the river basins and the countries from where main courses or tributaries originate are as under:

River	Country
Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna	China, Nepal, Bhutan
Indus	China, Afghanistan

About 30 % of the upstream catchment area of Ganga-Brahmaputra- Meghna and about 13% of upper catchment of Indus lies in neighbouring countries.

(c) and (d) Government of India has not entered into a long term agreement for overall water sharing with these countries. However, India has entered into agreement for bilateral co-operation on specific issues related to water.

Flood prone regions in the country

†227.DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set any target to make the flood affected regions of the country flood free under the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the area out of the existing flood affected regions in the country to become flood free after the Eleventh Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the amount spent by Government under this plan since 2005, till date and the total amount to be spent by the end of the Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the Report of Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) of 1980, total flood prone area in the country, was estimated as 40 million hectares (m ha), which has now been reassessed to 45.358 m ha. As the total elimination or control of floods or providing total immunity from the effects of all magnitude of floods is not practically possible, the flood management measures are aimed to provide a reasonable degree of protection only against floods.

(b) As per the Report of the Working Group on Water Resources for the XI Five Year Plan (2007-12), a total area of about 18 m ha has been provided reasonable degree of flood protection through various structural/ non-structural measures upto the end of X Plan period and the proposed measures for flood control in XI Plan are likely to benefit an additional area of 2.18 m ha by the end of XI Plan.

(c) Flood Management is within the purview of States and the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments as per their own priorities. The Government of India is also providing financial assistance to the State Governments for undertaking flood management works in critical areas. During XI Plan, the Cabinet has approved 'in principle' a scheme namely 'Flood Management Programme' under State sector with an estimated cost of Rs.8,000 crore for providing central assistance to the State Governments for undertaking flood

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi